CLAIMS

What we claim:

1   1.   A method of providing presentations to a user node over the Internet,

2   comprising:

3   providing a presentation instructions data file, the presentation instructions data file

4   including content and instructions on presenting the content;

5   providing a presentation engine with functionality common to a plurality of different

6   presentations, the functionality including at least functions of receiving the presentation

7   instructions data file, running the instructions associated with the presentation instructions

8   data file, and playing the presentation;

9   receiving a request from a user node for the presentation;

10   selecting the presentation from the plurality of different presentations;

11   determining if the user node has the presentation engine;

12   if the user node does not have the presentation engine, then:

13   delivering the presentation engine to the user node;

14   delivering the presentation instructions data file to the user node for the

15   presentation;

16   if the user node has the presentation engine, then:

17   delivering the presentation instructions data file to the user node for the

18   presentation;

19   wherein the presentation engine is delivered to the user node only if the user node

20   does not have the presentation engine, whereby a total amount of data sent to the user can be

21   reduced.

1   2.   The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the presentation engine comprises

2   a Java applet.

1   3.   The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the presentation instructions data

2   file comprises text.

1   4.   The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the presentation instructions data

2   file comprises script.

1   5.   The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the presentation instructions data

2   file comprises audio.

1   6.   The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the presentation instructions data

2   file comprises video.

1   7.   The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the presentation instructions data

2   file comprises images.

1   8.   The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein delivering the presentation

2   instructions data file comprises encrypting the presentation instructions data file.

1   9.   The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein delivering the presentation

2   instructions data file comprises delivering a single file.

1   10.   The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein delivering the presentation

2   instructions data file comprises delivering a plurality of files.

1   11.   The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising sending an initialization

2   command for causing the user node to open a second channel to receive the presentation.

1   12.   The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising sending a delivery

2   command for causing the user node to issue the request for the presentation.

1   13.   The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising determining information

2   about the user node and selecting the presentation based on the user information.

1   14.   The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the presentation engine includes

2   functionality for playing audio.

1   15.   The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the presentation engine includes

37

2   functionality for playing video.

1   16.   The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the presentation engine includes

2   functionality for verifying that the user node received the presentation.

1   17.   The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein selecting the presentation

2   comprises selecting the presentation based on the user node.

1   18.   The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein selecting the presentation

2   comprises selecting the presentation from a series of related presentations.